

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the patent application as follows wherein added text is indicated with underlining and deleted text is indicated with ~~strikethrough~~ or with [[double-brackets]] :

1. (Currently Amended) A method of selecting preferred video segments from a plurality of video segments within a video stream, said method comprising:

- receiving said video stream, said video stream comprising a continuous series of video segments;
- decoding markers encoded within said video stream, said markers indicating divisions between said plurality of video segments of said video stream;
- decoding tags encoded within said video stream, each video segment having associated tags, said tags provide information relating to the content of an associated video segment;
- storing said markers and tags decoded from said video stream in a database;
- storing said plurality of video segments in a video storage, said plurality of video segments identified from said video stream using said markers; [[and]]
- using video preference information of a viewer to select preferred video segments from said video storage by comparing said tags describing the content of each video segment stored in said database with said video preference information of said viewer; and
- storing an indication of preferred video segments in said database.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the tags within said video stream and the markers within said video stream are encoded manually into said video stream by use of a computer.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the tags within said video stream and the markers within said video stream are encoded automatically by use of voice recognition techniques.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said markers within said video stream are encoded within said video stream based upon detection of change of scenes.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of using video preference information of said viewer to select preferred video segments comprises comparing key words that are input by said viewer with the tags that have been placed within said video stream.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said tags within said video stream are encoded using information from an Electronic Programming Guide.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said tags within said video stream and said markers within said video stream are encoded in a vertical blanking interval within said video stream.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of:

skipping to a next video segment upon receiving an input control signal from a user input device.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of:

excluding said video segments that do not have tags that match any preferred content tags in said video preference information of said viewer.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of:

excluding said video segments that have tags that match undesired content tags in said video preference information of said viewer.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of using video preference information of a viewer to select preferred video segments from said video storage comprises sequentially accessing said markers and tags stored in said database.

14. - 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of selecting preferred video segments from a plurality of video segments in a video stream comprising:

- receiving said video stream, said video stream comprising a continuous series of video segments;
- decoding markers encoded within said video stream, said markers having a position in said video stream that indicates a division between said plurality of video segments of said video stream;
- decoding tags encoded within said video stream, each video segment having associated tags, said tags provide information relating to the content of the associated video segment;
- storing said plurality of video segments from said video stream in a local storage, said plurality of video segments identified from said video stream using said markers;

using video preference information of a viewer to select preferred video segments by comparing said tags of each video segment with video preference information of said viewer;
storing an indication of said preferred video segments in said database; and
downloading said preferred video segments from said local storage if said comparison of said tags of each video segment with said video preference information is favorable.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting preferred video segments from a continuous series of video segments in a video stream received by said system, said system comprising:

a decoder that decodes tags and markers from said video stream, said markers indicating divisions between said continuous series of video segments in said video stream, said tags provide information relating to the content of an associated video segment;
a video segment database that stores said tags and said markers decoded from said video stream;
a video storage for storing said video segments of said video stream received by said system, said video segments identified using said markers;
a user preference database, said user preference database storing viewer preferences from a viewer; and
a comparator that compares said tags from said video segment database with said viewer preferences to select preferred video segments from said video storage and marks said video segment database with an indication of said preferred video segments.

20. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19, said system further comprising:

a personal video recorder coupled to an input of said system that filters said video stream.

21. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said decoder comprises a video blanking interval decoder.

22. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said comparator sequentially access said tags and said markers in said video segment database.

23. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said tags comprise information from an Electronic Program Guide relating to said video segment.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said markers and said tags are encoded as analog data in said video stream.

26. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said markers and said tags are encoded as digital data in said video stream.

27 - 28. (Canceled).

29. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said markers are inserted into said video stream to indicate the division between said video segments by automatic detection of changes in flesh tone within said video stream.

30. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said markers are inserted into said video stream to indicate the division between said video segments by automatic detection of changes in audio levels within said video stream.

31. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said markers are inserted into said video stream to indicate the division between said video segments by automatic detection of changes in light levels within said video stream.

32. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said markers are inserted into said video stream to indicate the division between said video segments by automatic detection of changes in color within said video stream.

33. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said markers are inserted into said video stream to indicate the division between video segments by applying voice recognition software to said video stream.

34. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said markers are inserted into said video stream to indicate the division between said video segments by automatic detection of changes in music within said video stream.

35. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said markers are inserted into said video stream to indicate the division between said video segments by automatic detection of changes in scenery within said video stream.

36. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said plurality of video segments in said video stream comprise a live broadcast signal that is sent to said system at said viewer's premises.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 further comprising a viewer personalized remote control that transmits said viewer preference information to said system.

39 - 71. (Canceled).

Please add the following new claims to the patent application:

72. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1, said method further comprising
a step of:

storing an indication of mandatory video segments in said database.

73. (New) The method as set forth in claim 17, said method further
comprising a step of:

storing an indication of mandatory video segments in said database.